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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, MARIELA GONZÁLEZ, FREDDY JOSE ARAPE RIVAS, M.H., CECILIA DANIELA GONZÁLEZ HERRERA, ALBA CECILIA PURICA HERNÁNDEZ, E.R., HENDRINA VIVAS CASTILLO, A.C.A., SHERIKA BLANC, VILES DORSAINVIL, and G.S..

*Plaintiffs,*

V.

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as  
Secretary of Homeland Security, UNITED  
STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, and UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA

### *Defendants.*

Case No. 25-cv-1766

**PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND  
MOTION TO PRESERVE STATUS AND  
RIGHTS UNDER SECTION 705;  
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND  
AUTHORITIES IN  
SUPPORT THEREOF**

Date: TBD  
Time: TBD  
Place: TBD

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**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO PRESERVE STATUS AND RIGHTS UNDER  
SECTION 705**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, on May 29, 2025, or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard before the district court judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102, assigned to this matter, Plaintiffs move under 5 U.S.C. § 705 of the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) to “preserve status or rights pending conclusion of the review proceedings.” Specifically, Plaintiffs seek an order preserving the status or rights of individuals who received “EADs, Forms I-797, Notices of Action, and Forms I-94 issued with October 2, 2026 expiration dates.”<sup>1</sup> *See Ex. A.*

Plaintiffs met and conferred with Defendants regarding this Motion on May 21, 2025. Defendants stated that DHS is reviewing the Supreme Court’s order and has no position to provide at this time. The Parties have agreed that Defendants will file their opposition on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 by 9 am PST. Plaintiffs request that this Motion be heard at the May 29, 2025 status conference. Defendants oppose that request.

To prevent irreparable harm, and because many TPS holders who possess the documents identified by the Supreme Court could otherwise lose their employment and be subject to imminent detention and deportation, Plaintiffs request that the Court act *as soon as possible* to preserve the status and rights of those individuals until such time as the Court can resolve whether the orders challenged in this case are unlawful. The preservation of the status and rights of these individuals comports with the Supreme Court’s ruling of May 19, 2025, which recognized the possibility that such individuals could have claims warranting interim relief and appeared to invite a “challenge” on that basis. *Id.*

This Motion is based upon this Notice of Motion and Motion; the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities; the supporting declarations and evidence filed concurrently herewith; all prior pleadings and filings in this case; any additional matter of which the Court may

<sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs also include in this motion Venezuelan TPS holders who received I-797 forms extending their employment authorization documents by 540 days, which is through September 24, 2026, for reasons explained below.

take judicial notice; and such further evidence or argument as may be presented before, at, or after the hearing.

Date: May 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

## ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

/s/ Emilou MacLean

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Amanda Young

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## HAITIAN BRIDGE ALLIANCE

### Attorneys for Plaintiffs

# MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

## **INTRODUCTION**

This case challenges, *inter alia*, Defendants’ decisions to “vacate” the January 17, 2025 extension of Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) for Venezuela and subsequently terminate TPS for nearly 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders who first qualified for TPS protection under the 2023 designation. This Court granted Plaintiffs’ motion to postpone both decisions on March 28, 2025. Defendants moved to stay that order. After this Court and the Ninth Circuit denied Defendants’ motion, the Supreme Court granted a stay in a two-paragraph ruling issued on May 19, 2025. This motion arises in light of the second paragraph of the Supreme Court’s ruling which states:

This order is without prejudice to any challenge to Secretary Noem's February 3, 2025 vacatur notice insofar as it purports to invalidate EADs, Forms I-797, Notices of Action, and Forms I-94 issued with October 2, 2026 expiration dates. See 8 U. S. C. § 1254a(d)(3).

Ex. A.

Plaintiffs seek to prevent irreparable harm to the individuals identified in that second paragraph, including Freddy Rivas, other NTPSA members who received TPS-related documents under the January 17, 2025 extension, and any other TPS holders who did so as well. *See* First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) ¶¶ 19, 71. Section 1254a(d)(3) states “[i]f the Attorney General terminates the designation of a foreign state … such termination shall only apply to documentation and authorization issued or renewed after the effective date of the publication of notice.” In other words, this provision of the TPS statute prohibits the government from abrogating the validity of already-issued TPS documents or otherwise refusing to honor documents it has issued with end dates *after* a termination takes effect.

Thus, the plain language of the provision the Supreme Court cited makes clear that Secretary Noem exceeded her authority by purporting to invalidate documents the agency had already issued pursuant to the January 17 extension. Even when the government terminates a TPS designation lawfully, the statute clearly provides that termination “shall only apply to documentation and authorization issued or renewed *after* the effective date of the publication of notice.” *Id.* (emphasis added). Any attempt to alter the status or rights of those who obtained documentation *before* the

1 effective date of the termination exceeds statutory authority, yet that is precisely what Secretary  
 2 Noem purported to do. Moreover, although her decision references the reliance interests arising from  
 3 Secretary Mayorkas's January 17 extension generally, there is no indication that the government  
 4 ever considered the unique reliance interests of those who availed themselves of the January 17,  
 5 2025 extension, paid renewal fees, and thereby lawfully acquired documentation reflecting their  
 6 status and rights under it.

7 This Court has authority under Section 705 to preserve the "status and rights" reflected in  
 8 those documents, including because the Supreme Court's stay ruling expressly was "without  
 9 prejudice" to Plaintiffs seeking this narrowly tailored relief. Although the Supreme Court's stay  
 10 ruling contains no reasoning, and has no precedential effect, two features of it provide some  
 11 guidance. *First*, by singling out a subset of individuals who could apply for interim relief, the stay  
 12 ruling is inconsistent with the sweeping jurisdictional arguments Defendants advanced before both  
 13 this Court and the Supreme Court. Defendants argued to the Supreme Court that the TPS "statute  
 14 commits to the Secretary's unreviewable authority any and all determinations concerning TPS  
 15 designation, extension, and termination." *See* Ex. B at 16. If the Supreme Court had accepted that  
 16 position, then the Secretary's decision to cancel TPS documentation issued in violation of Section  
 17 1254a(d)(3) would be entirely unreviewable. But the Supreme Court clearly did *not* accept that  
 18 argument, as its ruling was "without prejudice" to a challenge to the "vacatur notice insofar as it  
 19 purports to invalidate EADs, Forms I-797, Notices of Action, and Forms I-94 issued with October 2,  
 20 2026 expiration dates." *See* Ex. A. In other words, to the extent this Court can take any guidance  
 21 from the Supreme Court's cursory ruling, it suggests that a jurisdictional basis exists to "challenge []  
 22 Secretary Noem's February 3, 2025 vacatur notice," and, moreover, that at least some individuals  
 23 may seek immediate interim relief on that basis.

24 *Second*, the stay ruling's focus on those TPS holders who had already acquired  
 25 documentation establishing their status or rights under the January 17 extension suggests that the  
 26 Court gave some weight to Defendants' argument that interim relief under Section 705 should be  
 27 limited to "preserv[ing] status or rights." *See* Ex. C at 12 (arguing that "Section 705 ... authoriz[es]  
 28 interim relief only 'to the extent necessary to prevent irreparable injury' and ... 'to preserve status or

1 rights"); Ex. B at 32 (relief available under Section 705 "to the extent necessary to prevent  
 2 irreparable injury" in order to, *inter alia*, "preserve status or rights"). Because the stay ruling  
 3 contains no reasoning, it is impossible to ferret out whether the Court took this approach based on a  
 4 textual reading of Section 705, its weighing of the balance of the equities, or simply in the exercise  
 5 of its inherent discretion. Whatever the reasoning, individuals who already received TPS-related  
 6 documentation pursuant to the January 17 extension (i.e., those individuals carved out in the second  
 7 paragraph of the Court's stay ruling) can seek relief even under the Government's position before  
 8 the Supreme Court that interim relief should be limited to preserving status or rights. Plaintiffs  
 9 therefore seek this emergency relief on their behalf.

10 **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE**

11 Should the Court recognize the continuing validity of TPS-related documentation issued  
 12 pursuant to the January extension pending further litigation in this case in order to preserve the status  
 13 and rights of individuals who received such documents, under 5 U.S.C. Section 705?

14 **STATEMENT OF THE RELEVANT FACTS**

15 Plaintiffs will not repeat the facts relevant to this case in general, as they are set forth in this  
 16 Court's order granting postponement under Section 705. *See* Dkt. 93 at 3-13. For purposes of this  
 17 Motion in particular, the pertinent facts are that the January 17, 2025 extension issued by Secretary  
 18 Mayorkas opened a registration process whereby "[e]xisting TPS beneficiaries . . . who wish to  
 19 extend their status through October 2, 2026" could apply to obtain an extension of their work  
 20 authorization and lawful status through that date. *See, e.g.*, 90 Fed. Reg. 5961, 5961-62; FAC  
 21 ¶¶ 55-59. Some Venezuelan TPS holders, including at least one of the individual Plaintiffs in this  
 22 case and other NTPSA members, received documents through that process. When Secretary Noem  
 23 vacated the January 17 extension, she also purported to "invalidate EADs; Forms I-797, Notice of  
 24 Action (Approval Notice); and Forms I-94, Arrival/Departure Record (collectively known as TPS-  
 25 related documentation) that have been issued with October 2, 2026 expiration dates under the  
 26 [extension] notice," and to "rescind[]" automatic EAD extensions provided under the notice. 90 Fed.  
 27 Reg. 8805, 8807; *see also* FAC at ¶ 71 (explaining the vacatur notice "invalidates employment  
 28 authorization and approval notices already granted, and cancels the ongoing processing of

1 applications already filed”), *id.* (quoting vacatur notice, which states “pursuant to this vacatur the  
2 automatic EAD extensions provided in the [January 2025 Extension] are hereby rescinded”).

3 **ARGUMENT**

4 **I. PLAINTIFFS ARE LIKELY TO SUCCEED ON THE MERITS.**

5 The Secretary’s decision to invalidate documentation is in excess of statutory authority and  
6 not in accordance with law, for at least two reasons.

7 *First*, Section 1254a(d)(3) states “[i]f the Attorney General terminates the designation of a  
8 foreign state … such termination shall only apply to documentation and authorization issued or  
9 renewed after the effective date of the publication of notice.” Yet Defendants’ vacatur notice  
10 purported to invalidate documentation issued *before* the effective date of the termination notice. As  
11 Defendants themselves recognized, some individuals had already received documents approving an  
12 extension of their TPS under the January 17, 2025 extension at the time Secretary Noem purported  
13 to vacate it. Ex. B at p. 9 n.7. Others, like Plaintiff Freddy Rivas, had applied (and paid the relevant  
14 fees) and received a Notice of Action automatically extending their TPS-related work authorization  
15 under the extension, but not yet been given proof of a right to reside in the form of an I-94. *See* Dkt.  
16 18 (Rivas Decl.) ¶ 12 (describing application and receipt of 540 day extension on his employment  
17 authorization). The Supreme Court’s ruling suggests that Secretary Noem’s attempt to invalidate  
18 these validly-issued documents was unlawful,<sup>2</sup> and this Court retains authority to “preserve status or  
19 rights,” 5 U.S.C. section 705, for individuals like Plaintiff Mr. Rivas, because Defendants have acted  
20 “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations.” *See* 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(c); *see also* *In re*  
21

22  
 2 There should be no dispute that the Supreme Court’s ruling invites a challenge to the invalidation  
23 of both categories of documentation, not just a challenge limited to those who received proof of TPS  
24 status. The ruling expressly references “EADs” and “Forms I-94 issued with October 2, 2026  
25 expiration dates”—documents received by individuals whose applications were approved under the  
January 17, 2025 extension—as well as “Forms I-797, Notices of Action”—which includes receipt  
notices granting automatic extensions of TPS-related work authorization that were received by  
individuals who applied to re-register under the extension but had not yet received final approval.  
USCIS issues “numerous types of Form I-797[s],” including Form “I-797, Notice of Action,” which  
is “[i]ssued to communicate receipt or approval of an application or petition.” *See* Form I-797: Types  
and Functions, at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/form-i-797-types-and-functions>. The  
Supreme Court’s reference to “Forms I-797” and “Notices of Action” in the plural makes clear that  
the invalidation of the several varieties of these documents raise similar concerns.

1 *Border Infrastructure Envtl. Litig.*, 915 F.3d 1213, 1222 (9th Cir. 2019) (the right of review under  
 2 the APA includes a right to judicial review of “legal question[s] of statutory authority”).

3 *Second*, the government’s attempt to “rescind” facially-valid government documents  
 4 constitutes arbitrary agency action in violation of the APA, including because it contravenes the  
 5 reasonable reliance interests that individuals gain upon receipt of government documents. *See*  
 6 *generally DHS v. Regents of the Univ. of Cal.*, 591 U.S. 1, 30 (2020) (reversing DHS decision to end  
 7 DACA program for failure to consider reliance interests). The Ninth Circuit has held that when  
 8 individuals seek an immigration benefit, they obtain a “vested right” in adjudication of that benefit  
 9 that warrants consideration as a reliance interest. *Ixcot v. Holder*, 646 F.3d 1202, 1213 (9th Cir.  
 10 2011) (holding application of narrower rule was “impermissibly retroactive … when applied to an  
 11 immigrant … who applied for immigration relief prior to [the new rule’s] effective date,” because  
 12 those who applied gain a “vested right” in their application). Those who “availed” themselves of  
 13 rights conferred under the January 17, 2025 extension had justified “expectations above the level of  
 14 hope” that the status and rights that extension conferred would not be rescinded. *CRVQ v. USCIS*,  
 15 2020 WL 8994098, at \*7 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2020) (applying rule against retroactive application as  
 16 to employment authorization); *see also Montoya v. Holder*, 744 F.3d 614, 616 (2014) (“Whether a  
 17 right has ‘vested’ is therefore primarily determined by an individual’s actions—the inquiry looks to  
 18 whether a person has ‘availed’ himself of the right, or ‘took action that enhanced [its] significance to  
 19 him in particular.’”) (citations omitted, emphasis in original omitted). Here, while the Secretary  
 20 purported to take some steps to ameliorate the harms at issue, 90 Fed. Reg. at 8807, her actions  
 21 nonetheless resulted in the dramatic impairment of the vested rights of those who sought benefits  
 22 under the January 17, 2025 extension.

23 Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on these claims, and the Court should therefore issue an Order  
 24 preserving the rights conferred by the January 17, 2025 extension to prevent irreparable harm to  
 25 those who availed themselves of those rights. Indeed, this aspect of the challenged decisions gives  
 26 rise to a separate and independent ground to find them unlawful, apart from those already recognized  
 27 by this Court. Furthermore, the relief sought by this Motion falls within the scope of the FAC. *See*  
 28

1 FAC Prayer for Relief at 70 (requesting “any other and further relief that this Court may deem fit  
 2 and proper”).

3 **II. VENEZUELAN TPS HOLDERS WHO RECEIVED TPS DOCUMENTATION  
 4 PURSUANT TO THE JANUARY 17 EXTENSION FACE UNIQUE IRREPARABLE  
 5 HARM, AND THE BALANCE OF EQUITIES AND PUBLIC INTEREST WEIGH  
 6 EVEN MORE HEAVILY IN THEIR FAVOR.**

7 The remaining factors courts must consider in a stay request under Section 705 “substantially  
 8 overlap with the [Winter] factors for a preliminary injunction,” Dkt. 93 at 30–31 (quoting *Immigrant  
 9 Legal Res. Ctr. v. Wolf*, 491 F. Supp. 3d 520, 529 (N.D. Cal. 2020)), and warrant relief under Section  
 10 705 here. Plaintiffs presented substantial evidence that every Venezuelan TPS holder faces  
 11 irreparable injury from Defendants’ actions. While the Supreme Court obviously did not find that  
 12 Plaintiffs’ showing warranted a Section 705 postponement for all TPS holders, it left to this Court to  
 13 decide whether at least the subset of individual who had already received TPS-related documents  
 14 pursuant to the January 17 extension should receive interim relief. 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(d)(3).

15 For this subset of TPS holders, the irreparable harm from allowing the challenged decisions  
 16 to take effect weighs particularly heavily because it would violate fundamental reliance interests.  
 17 Notably, five years ago the Supreme Court reversed the Secretary’s decision to end the DACA  
 18 program in substantial part due to a failure to account for reliance interests. *Regents*, 591 U.S. at  
 19 30–31. Moreover, as noted above, individuals who received documents from the federal government  
 20 extending their right to live and work in this country until a particular date have a “vested right” in  
 21 such benefits, not least because they took affirmative steps to apply for those benefits and paid the  
 22 corresponding fees. *Fernandez-Vargas v. Gonzales*, 548 U.S. 30, 37 (2006). On the other side of the  
 23 ledger, the Supreme Court at least suggested that the government’s interest should not foreclose  
 24 these individuals from seeking interim relief. Cf. *California v. HHS*, 281 F. Supp. 3d 806, 831–32  
 25 (N.D. Cal. 2017) (finding “the public interest favors the granting of a preliminary injunction”  
 26 because the “public interest is served when administrative agencies comply with their obligations  
 27 under the APA”) (quoting *N. Mariana Islands v. United States*, 686 F. Supp. 2d 7, 21 (D.D.C.  
 28 2009)).

## **CONCLUSION**

The Supreme Court left it to this Court to decide whether to grant interim relief to the subset of the Venezuelan TPS holders it mentioned in the second paragraph of its stay ruling. For the reasons stated above, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court issue an order preserving the status and rights conferred by TPS-related documentation already issued pursuant to the January 17, 2025 extension.

Date: May 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

## ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on May 21, 2025, I caused the foregoing to be electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will then send a notification of such filing (NEF) to all counsel of record.

## ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

/s/ Emilou MacLean  
Emilou MacLean